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theories step to the front—perhaps soon to retire. An exhibition like that of the National Academy of Design is thus a curious commentary on the accelerating and retarding forces that determine the vibrations of the pendulum. The older men represented in the galleries are confident that the pendulum is sure to swing their way some day, and hence do not care to change—if they could—their wonted methods. Those of impressionistic tendencies are sure that they will have their inning shortly, and so they keep devotedly at their task. And so with the sun-worshippers, and the shade-worshippers, and the pastoralists of French extraction, and the anarchical realists, and the followers of this, that, and the other fashion-leader in pictorial art. We had them all in the galleries, and will have them again next year. It is just as well—both for the men and for American art—that we should. The old dictum, “Ring out the old, ring in the new,” is a doubtful policy, for the old of to-day was the new of yesterday, and the new of to-day will be the old of to-morrow, and one cannot tell how soon the order of things may be reversed and fashion may resurrect old methods, fashions, cults, with new trimmings to disguise their antiquity, and give them a further lien of public favor.

W. T. LANDERS.



THE RIGHTS OF THE ART CRITIC

Holding that criticisms of art are privileged, and that a critic has the right to apprise the public of the value of an artist's production, Judge Halsey recently sustained the demurrer of the defendants in the case of Paul J. Kupper against John Montague Handley and the Milwaukee Sentinel. The court decided that Mr. Handley's criticism of the model for the Kosciusko monument, executed by the plaintiff, were not of a libelous nature, for the reason that the charges were against a thing instead of a person. Though the sculptor's name was used in connection with the criticism of his model, the court holds that the denunciation was of the work rather than of the artist or his ability. The words, alleged in the complaint to constitute a libel, it is held, were used in the criticism of the statue. The court also takes the stand that inasmuch as the model was on public exhibition, it was subject to criticism.

